

# Multi-Spectral Imaging of Dead Sea Scrolls and other Ancient Documents

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Photography has long been a recording medium for archeological objects, not only on-site but **also for scholarly use and publication. Color and b&w** photography are used to document dig sites and excavated objects. For some objects, photography provides a visual record but does not capture all the information available. This is especially true for texts, whether on papyri, parchment, ostraca or plaster.

This article presents results of new approaches to imaging, specifically utilizing techniques developed by NASA for planetary spacecraft missions to other solar system bodies. Results from a month long field project in Jerusalem in the summer of 1994 demonstrate the usefulness of the new techniques on soft media documents and ostraca. This imaging approach is also effective and useful on frescoes, mosaics, ink inscriptions on plaster, colored textiles, illuminated manuscripts and inscribed ostraca. Most of the examples will be drawn from text material, as these are the objects we have had the most access to for this study.